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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: October 21, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Jose Santos Garcia III
Auto Thief Gets
2 Years Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jose Santos Garcia III, age 23, of Modesto, was convicted on October 21, 2010 of auto theft. Garcia also admitted a prior auto theft conviction from July 2010 for which he was on probation. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On October 6, 2010 at approximately 1:00 a.m., in the area of Mt. Vernon Avenue and Prescott Road in Modesto, an officer observed Garcia driving a 1991 blue Nissan Stanza that had been reported stolen on October 1, 2010 from the victim's driveway in Modesto. After performing a traffic stop, the officer observed that the steering column was damaged and that no key was needed in the ignition to start the car.

The Honorable Ricardo Cordova sentenced Garcia to two years in state prison.

Stanislaus County residents can report suspected vehicle theft activity to their local law enforcement agency or contact the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (StanCATT) at: (209) 545-7316.

IF YOU OBSERVE A THEFT IN PROGRESS, DIAL 911

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